



THE DATA CENTER

Independent Analysis for Informed Decisions in Southeast Louisiana

# *Demographic Analysis*

Dr. Allison Plyer

[allisonp@datacenterresearch.org](mailto:allisonp@datacenterresearch.org)

[@allisonplyer](#)





An apparent conundrum: Which is more accurate?

**Decennial  
census**



**Administrati  
ve records**



**Population Estimates Program**

**Demographic Analysis**



Administrative record errors will be less at the national level than at smaller geographies.







Proposed Series for the 2020 DA Estimates			
Series	Type of Estimates	Characteristics	Cohorts
Black alone / Non-Black	Official	Age, sex, race	0-85+
Black alone or in combination / Non-Black alone or in combination	Official	Age, sex, race	0-39
Hispanic / Non-Hispanic	Official	Age, sex, Hispanic origin	0-29
Full race and Hispanic origin detail	Experimental	Age, sex, race, Hispanic origin	0-17
Extended Hispanic / Non-Hispanic	Experimental	Age, sex, Hispanic origin	0-39
Subnational DA <sup>1</sup>	Experimental	Age <sup>3</sup>	0-4
<sup>1</sup> The Subnational DA series will not be produced until the final birth data are available in 2021.			





**Quality of administrative data is only as good as the importance of that data quality to the mission of the agency from which it comes**



*Medicare logo. Image courtesy of Wikipedia.*





# Estimating immigrant population

- The 5-year ACS might provide more accurate estimates of demographic details for international migration.
- Undocument immigration estimates
  - Estimates from Pew Research Center based on actual data.
  - Princeton's 2018 estimates were based on modeling and are variable based on key assumptions.



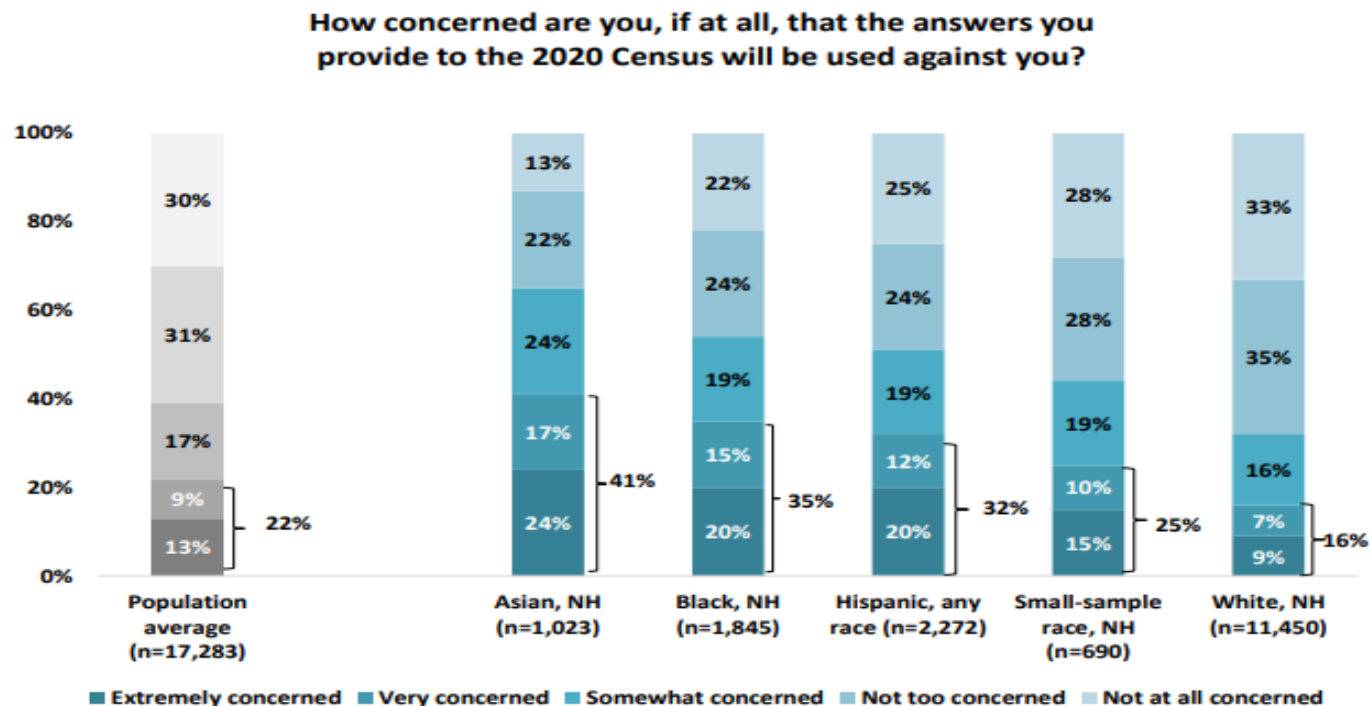




# Might be wise to estimate API also given these CBAMS results.

**Figure 27**

**All racial and Hispanic origin groups were more concerned their answers to the 2020 Census would be used against them than NH Whites.**



Source: 2020 CBAMS Public Use Microdata Sample

Notes: (1) Unweighted sample sizes are in parentheses.

(2) Appendix A reports the standard errors for all point estimates.

(3) All estimates reported in the bar were rounded to whole numbers so that the sum of estimates equals 100%.

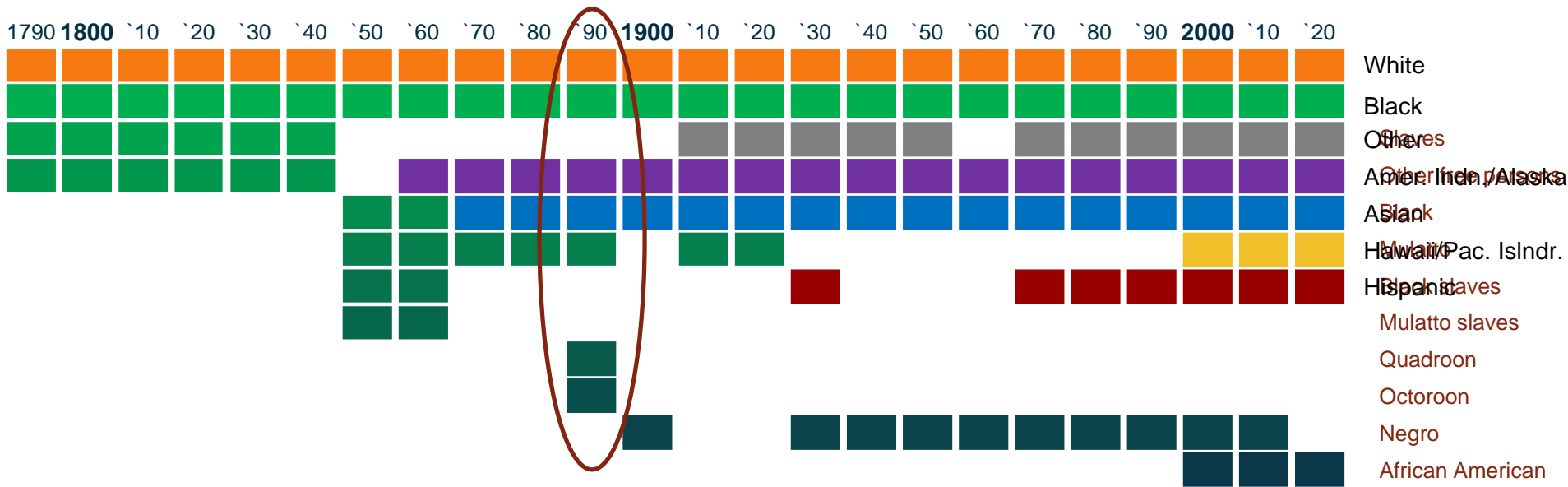






Available racial categories for Americans of African descent changed substantially over the history of the census.

## Available racial categories since the first census in 1790



By 1930, Census institutionalizes the “one drop rule”





# Challenges of assigning race based on administrative records – in contrast to self-reported data in Census

- Birth certificates list race of father and mother but not child.
  - Changing assignments for births for 1980 and before using KidLink approach?
- Death certificate is reported “by proxy.”





# Will be researching how self-identification can change over time.

- Starting in 2000, Americans could include themselves in more than one racial category.
- Nearly 10 million people identified by a different race or Hispanic origin category in 2010 than in 2000.
- Will consider developing methods that allow race and Hispanic origin to shift over time for a small subset of the population.







# Another conundrum: Which is better, self-reported or other reported?

Through 1950, census-takers commonly determined the race of the people they counted. From 1960 on, Americans could choose their own race.

**Self-  
reported**



**Other**

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AMONG NBA REFEREES

Joseph Price  
Justin Wolfers

Working Paper 13206  
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w13206>

NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH  
1050 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
June 2007







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